

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Community and Government Organizations Coming Together in Response to Growing Need of Workers Affected by Freeze

Fresno – A growing number of workers are finding assistance at designated One Stop Assistance Centers in Fresno County and through two mobile units bringing a wide range of services directly to those most impacted by crop losses due to the freezing conditions that devastated the region in January.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is working with freeze coalitions in the affected areas and committing additional staff to the mobile operations to assist eligible workers in filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI), updating their resumes, and searching for new employment and training opportunities.

“The number of workers seeking assistance is growing in Fresno County and EDD is proud to partner with a number of other government and community based organizations in meeting their needs in locations that are most convenient to workers,” said EDD Director Patrick Henning.

To date, Fresno County has the second highest number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims related to the devastating winter weather, 816 out of a total of 3,864 claims in the state. EDD and its partners have increased the number of phone lines available to workers for the purpose of filing for UI.

The Governor has also waived the one-week waiting period for filing for UI benefits. That allows eligible workers unemployed due to the freeze to collect more of their benefits faster, earning two weeks worth of benefits on their first check instead of one of those weeks serving as the customary waiting period.

In addition to expanded services provided through the mobile units and the One Stop Center in Reedley designated by Governor Schwarzenegger to provide immediate assistance to those impacted by the freeze in Fresno County, affected workers and employers will also find expanded services at three other One Stop Workforce Connection Centers in the county system, in addition to a temporary center in Orange Cove. Those locations are:

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1900 Mariposa Mall, Suite 130
Fresno
(559) 263-1102

3302 N. Blackstone Ave., Suite 155
Fresno
(559) 230-3600

720 Oller Street
Mendota
(559) 655-3711

Victor C. Lopez Center
1705 S. Anchor Avenue
Orange Cove
(559) 637-4327

The Small Business Administration is present in the center making information available to employers on Economic Injury Disaster Loans. In addition to the UI and Job Services available to eligible workers in the centers, a variety of other services include Food Stamps, CalWORKS assistance, Medi-Cal information, locations of food banks and primary care clinics, low-income energy assistance programs, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) referral services, and information on community-based organizations providing food, emergency shelter, blankets and other needs.

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